

## ***Information Resources***

National Small Flows  
Clearinghouse

Small Community Wastewater  
Solutions

[www.nesc.wvu.edu/nsfc](http://www.nesc.wvu.edu/nsfc)



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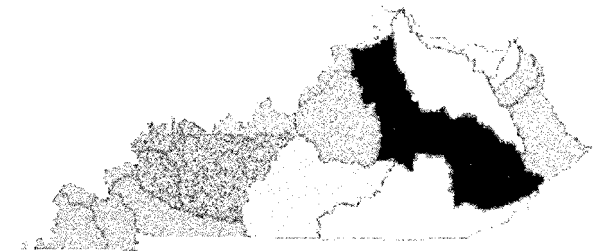
## **Examples in Kentucky:**

- Letcher County Water and Sewer District was established in 1997 in order to address the high number of straight pipes identified in the county. The District has jurisdiction over water and sewer planning, infrastructure construction, operation, and maintenance throughout the county. The county has taken the stance that delivery of water to rural residents must be accompanied by wastewater management in order to preserve quality of life. Rural wastewater services are maintained and operated by the District, and residents billed for services.

- The Bath County Sanitation District, in cooperation with Clark Energy Cooperative, has developed a plan to connect approximately 100 homes to a no-discharge, wastewater “cluster” system to address the straight pipes and failing septic systems in the area. This system is unique in that the community has entered into an agreement with the Rural Electric Cooperative to manage, operate, and maintain the wastewater system; residents would receive a monthly bill for services, just as they would in a traditional sewer collection system.

# **WASTEWATER REGIONALIZATION**

## ***Future Solutions Now***



# WASTEWATER REGIONALIZATION

## WHAT IS REGIONALIZATION?

Regionalization of wastewater management minimizes the number of wastewater discharges into the state waters. This is accomplished through prevention of new discharges, when possible, connection to existing facilities or the connection of one or more existing facilities, into a new or existing regional treatment facility.

Regionalization may also occur through the creation of sanitation districts, regional wastewater or other cooperative ownership agreements. Regionalization can also include systems that are not physically interconnected, such as onsite systems that may be joined as cluster systems, or one agency operating a wastewater treatment plant at several cities.

### **Regionalization is:**

1. The elimination of a private treatment facility with diversion of raw wastewater to a publicly owned treatment works.
2. The combining of one or more existing facilities into a new or existing regional treatment facility.
3. The prevention of new discharges, where possible, by requiring connection to an existing facility.
4. The creation of county-wide or regional sanitation district, regional wastewater authorities, or other cooperative ownership agreements.

## BENEFITS

Regionalization is advantageous to local authorities because it:

- offers economies of scale when contracting,
- increases treatment performance,
- lowers operating and administrative costs per customer,
- results in fewer discharge points which decrease environmental impacts,
- offers affordable rates,
- can occur within/around natural rather than geopolitical boundaries
- increases funding availability,
- increases consistency in meeting water standards,
- raises quality of life for citizens.

It is in the public interest to eliminate duplication of cost and effort, resulting in a more businesslike management. Management by a regional authority results in a higher degree of service to the public.

Economically, good wastewater management can increase recreation and tourism opportunities and decrease risks to public health by keeping contamination from our waterways.

## HOW IS REGIONALIZATION ACCOMPLISHED?

Regionalization can involve several jurisdictions and stakeholders working together to come up with a plan that best integrates the area's needs.

For example, several jurisdictions might form a regional authority to construct and operate one or more centralized treatment facilities. One community could act as the lead agency in constructing and operating the centralized facility, while each jurisdiction maintains responsibility for its own collection system. A unique solution to your needs is there, if the jurisdictions are willing to cooperate for the benefit of the public they serve.

